

REMARKS

In the Office Action that was mailed on September 11, 2003, claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown (U.S. Patent No. 5,794,219) ("Brown"). The foregoing rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-10 are pending in the subject application, of which claims 1 and 10 are independent claims.

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1 and 10 are amended herein to change a semicolon to a comma and to add a colon. Claims 1 and 10 are amended herein to recite monitoring and obtaining a "requesting" message. Claim 10 is amended herein to remove "step-plus-function"-type language. Care has been exercised to avoid the introduction of new matter.

Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 10 may be found in the Specification at page 11, line 16.

Rejections of the Claims:

In the present invention, each object monitors and obtains a requesting message that is transmitted over a network. Each object has a reaction table for associating a task request with an action. If an action corresponding to a task request that is described in the obtained requesting message is a reaction table, bidding is performed.

Brown discusses a remote computer that is used by a bidder to access and obtain a bid entry form that is registered in a central computer. (Brown, col. 6, line 67 – col. 7, line 5). The bid entry form obtained by the bidder is completed and transmitted to the central computer, whereby bidding is performed. (Brown, col. 7, lines 50-61). However, in contrast to the present invention, Brown does not disclose or suggest the reaction table, as stated by the examiner. Further, Brown does not disclose or suggest that a requesting message flowing over a network is monitored and obtained. Also, Brown does not disclose or suggest that if there is an action corresponding to a task request, referring to a reaction table, bidding is performed automatically. In Brown, it is necessary for a bidder to access a remote computer for bidding. In bidding, it is necessary to complete a bid entry form obtained by a bidder and transmit it to a central

computer.

The present invention is characterized in that a relationship between a task request and an action is registered in a reaction table with respect to each object distributed over a network, each object monitors and obtains a requesting message flowing over the network, and if there is an action corresponding to a task request, referring to the reaction table, bidding is performed automatically and the requesting message is determined (bid-awarded), whereby object collaboration is performed. Such object collaboration itself is not described in Brown, nor is the preceding paragraph disclosed or suggested in Brown. Therefore, the present invention is not obvious over Brown.

Further, the examiner states that the features of the dependent claims are disclosed in Brown. However, according to the present invention, an object for requesting (bid awarding) processing is determined based on a parameter affecting the processing efficiency of task processing, such as the shortness of a communication time, so that the task processing in object collaboration is performed efficiently. On the other hand, Brown is not intended to efficiently perform task processing in object collaboration, but is directed to economical bidding/bid awarding processing. The parameters used in Brown are not related to task processing of a bid amount and the like. Accordingly, the examiner's opinion of the dependent claims is not accurate.


Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is respectfully requested.

There being no further objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, which action is courteously requested. Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned

to attend to these matters. If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,
STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 2-9-2004

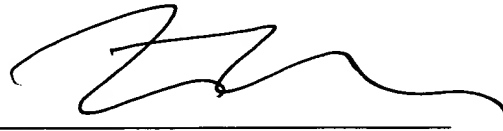
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